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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/527,743	03/14/2005	Yasushi Maruyama	SON-2814	9126
23353	7590	11/13/2007	EXAMINER	
RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC			KEBEDE, BROOK	
LION BUILDING				
1233 20TH STREET N.W., SUITE 501			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20036			2823	
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11/13/2007	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/527,743	MARUYAMA, YASUSHI	
	Examiner Brook Kebede	Art Unit 2823	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 14-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 14-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. Applicant's arguments, see Pages 14, filed October 10, 2007, with respect to of claim(s) 19-25 for not being treated in the merit in the Office action that was mailed on August 30, 2007 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, previous Final Office action has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, the new Final Office action is set forth herein below. The finality of this Office action is proper because there is no new ground rejection is made for claims 14-18 and the new ground rejection of claims 19-25 also is deemed proper because the rejection is necessitated by the amendment filed on June 19, 2007.

Response to Amendment

2. The amendment filed on October 10, 2007 under 37 C.F.R 1.116 is entered on the ground of withdrawal of finality of the previous Office action as well as the amendment does indeed presents the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Status of the Claims

3. Claims 14-25 are now pending in the application. Accordingly, claims 14-25 are treated on the merits as set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Inoue et al. (US 6,211,509).

Re claim 14, Inoue et al. disclose a method of manufacturing a solid-state image pickup device comprising: forming a photoelectric converting portion (25) and collective lens (29) in each pixel of an imaging area, wherein the collective lens (29) is placed at a position shifted more toward the center part of the imaging area as a distance from the center of the imaging area to a pixel thereof increases (see Fig. 1A and abstract); and an amount of the shift of the collective lens is defined based on the height from a surface of the photoelectric converting portion of the collective lens and the thickness in the direction of depth of the substrate of the photoelectric converting portion such that an amount of light incident within the photoelectric converting portion can increase (see Figs. 1A through 7E and related text in Col. 2, line 20 through Col. 10, line 25).

Re claim 15, as applied in claim 14 above Inoue et al. disclose all the claimed limitations including that a bottom of the photoelectric converting portion is placed at a position shifted from the center part of the imaging area toward the outside with respect to the surface (see Figs. 1A through 7E and related text in Col. 2, line 20 through Col. 10, line 25).

Re claim 16, as applied in claim 15 above Inoue et al. disclose all the claimed limitations including an amount of the shift of the bottom of the photoelectric converting portion is increased as the distance from the center of the imaging area to a pixel thereof increases (see Figs. 1A through 7E and related text in Col. 2, line 20 through Col. 10, line 25).

Re claim 19, Inoue et al. disclose a solid-state image pickup device comprising: pixels arranged in an imaging area (see Abstract, Figs. 1A 2A), each of the pixels having a collective lens (29) and a photoelectric converting portion (22), wherein a configuration for one of the

pixels differs from another of the pixels (i.e., pixels arranged as R, G and B units) (see Figs. 1A through 7E and related text in Col. 2, line 20 through Col. 10, line 25).

Re claim 20, as applied to claim 19 above, Inoue et al. disclose all the claimed limitations including wherein, as said configuration, the collective lens for said one of the pixels is shifted more toward a center of said imaging area than the collective lens for said another of the pixels (see Figs. 1A through 7E and related text in Col. 2, line 20 through Col. 10, line 25).

Re claim 21, as applied to claim 19 above, Inoue et al. disclose all the claimed limitations including wherein, as said configuration, the collective lens for said one of the pixels is closer to the photoelectric converting portion than the photoelectric converting portion for said another of the pixels (see Figs. 1A through 7E and related text in Col. 2, line 20 through Col. 10, line 25).

Re claim 22, as applied to claim 19 above, Inoue et al. disclose all the claimed limitations including wherein, as said configuration, the photoelectric converting portion for said one of the pixels tilts more from a center part of said imaging area to an outside in a pixel in the screen peripheral part than the photoelectric converting portion for said another of the pixels (see Figs. 1A through 7E and related text in Col. 2, line 20 through Col. 10, line 25).

Re claim 23, as applied to claim 19 above, Inoue et al. disclose all the claimed limitations including wherein, as said configuration, a depth of the photoelectric converting portion for said one of the pixels is greater than a depth of the photoelectric converting portion for said another of the pixels (see Figs. 1A through 7E and related text in Col. 2, line 20 through Col. 10, line 25).

Re claim 24, as applied to claim 19 above, Inoue et al. disclose all the claimed limitations including wherein, as said configuration, wires for said one of the pixels are shifted more toward

a center of the imaging area wires for said another of the pixels (see Figs. 1A through 7E and related text in Col. 2, line 20 through Col. 10, line 25).

Re claim 25, as applied to claim 19 above, Inoue et al. disclose all the claimed limitations including wherein the photoelectric converting portion includes multiple impurity regions (see Figs. 1A through 7E and related text in Col. 2, line 20 through Col. 10, line 25).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue et al. (US 6,211,509) in view of Yamada (US 2005/0035376).

Re claims 17 and 18, as applied to claim 16 in Paragraph 6 above, Inoue et al. disclose all the claimed limitations including the photoelectric converting portion (22) includes an impurity region formed by performing ion-implantation into a semiconductor layer.

However, Inoue et al. do not specifically disclose the photoelectric converting portion formed by multiple ion implantation process that includes an angle implantation.

Yamada discloses formation of the photoelectric conversion region by multiple ion implantation that includes an angle implantation (see Figs. 11-13) in order to suppress variation of readout voltage of the device (see Page 10, Paragraph [0130] through [0131]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant(s) claimed invention was made to provide Inoue et al. reference with multiple ion-implantation process that includes angle implant during formation of photoelectric converting portion as taught by Yamada in order to suppress variation of readout voltage of the device.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 19-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection necessitated by the amendment filed on June 19, 2007.

9. Applicant's arguments filed on October 10, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to rejection of claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b), applicant's argue that "Inoue fails to disclose, teach, or suggest that the collective lens is placed at a position shifted more toward the center of the imaging area from a part on the symmetrical substantial center as a distance from the center of the imaging area to a pixel thereof increases... Inoue fails to disclose, teach, or suggest that the collective lens is placed at position shifted more toward the center of the imaging area from a part on the symmetrical substantial center as a distance from the center of the imaging area to a pixel thereof increases...Inoue fails to disclose, teach, or suggest that the collective lens has an amount of shift depending on the degree of asymmetry of

the surface of the photoelectric converting portion in a pixel positioned at an equal distance from the center of the imaging area..."

In response to applicant's arguments, it is respectfully submitted that Inoue et al. '509 disclose all the claimed limitations including *collective lens is placed at a position shifted more toward the center of the imaging area from a part on the symmetrical substantial center as a distance from the center of the imaging area to a pixel thereof increases; the collective lens is placed at position shifted more toward the center of the imaging area from a part on the symmetrical substantial center as a distance from the center of the imaging area to a pixel thereof increase; and the collective lens has an amount of shift depending on the degree of asymmetry of the surface of the photoelectric converting portion in a pixel positioned at an equal distance from the center of the imaging area* .

Furthermore, applicant's arguments that drawings are not to scale has no merit because applicant's own drawings are not to scale too in the absence of quantitative dimensional measurements.

In many digital image sensor devices, an array of microlenses is placed near each pixel aperture on the sensor surface. The poison and properties of microlens array control the optical path from the sensor surface to the photodetector. The microlenses concentrate photons incident within the pixel aperture onto a compact region at the substrate. The microlenses are intended to concentrate the photons onto the photodetector rather than allowing them to fall on non-photosensitive positions in the pixel floor. To concentrate photons the microlens properties must be coordinated with those of the imaging lens. Therefore, this requires the microlens to be positioned and arranged or placed such a way that shifted more toward the center of the imaging

area from a part on the symmetrical substantial center as a distance from the center of the imaging area to a pixel thereof increases; the collective lens is placed at position shifted more toward the center of the imaging area from a part on the symmetrical substantial center as a distance from the center of the imaging area to a pixel thereof increase; and the collective lens has an amount of shift depending on the degree of asymmetry of the surface of the photoelectric converting portion in a pixel positioned at an equal distance from the center of the imaging are.

It is respectfully submitted that the claimed limitations that applicant contend that Inoue et al. do not teach is within inherent future of Inoue et al. discloser.

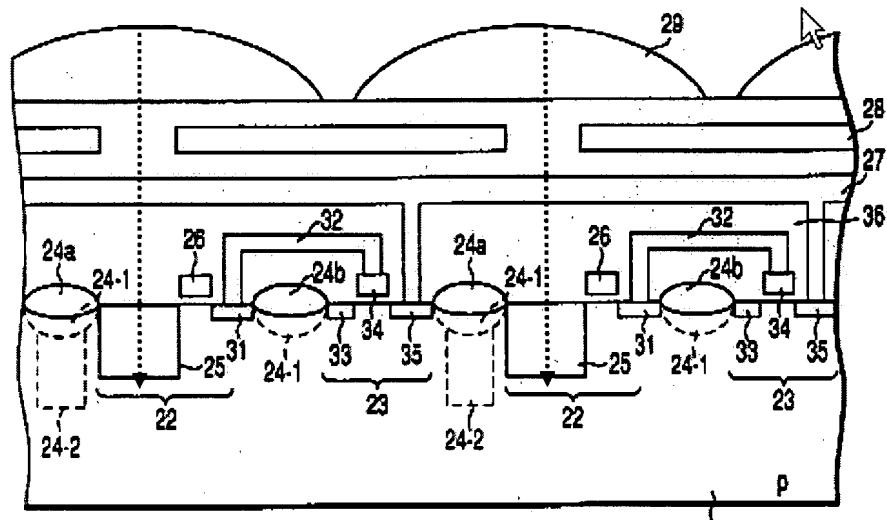


FIG. 1A

As depicted in Fig.1 above, Inoue et al. clearly show the microlens positioned to central part of photodiode. Inoue et al. also clearly disclose that the *focusing lens 29 is a microlens formed in each cell to form an optical image on the photodiode 25 of the cell*. In other word, the focal point of the lens 29 is directed toward the center of the photodiode 25. Further, The

drawings, as shown in Figs. 1-3 clearly teach the claimed subject matter of the instant application.

Claims are given to their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the supporting disclosure. See *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. See *In re Prater*, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-551 (CCPA 1969). See also *In re Zletz*, 893 F.2d 319, 321-22, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-7, 9, 10 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) is deemed proper.

In addition, the rejection of claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103 is deemed proper because the rejection of the base claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) is deemed proper.

Therefore, the *prima facie* case of obviousness has been met and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is deemed proper.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Correspondence

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brook Kebede whose telephone number is (571) 272-1862. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5 Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1907. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brook Kebede/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2823

/BK/
November 2, 2007